AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1.(currently amended): A transmission system for controlling the transmission of a ~~multiplexed~~ concatenation signal via a path, the system comprising:

a sending apparatus including:

signal dividing means for dividing the ~~multiplexed signal to generate a plurality of divided signals in the STS or STM transmission interface format,~~ concatenation signal to generate a plurality of divided signals which are pseudo concatenation signals having a SONET or SDH multiplexed interface, the bit rate of which is lower than that of the original concatenation signal, according to a bit rate available for a transmission line;

guarantee information adding means for adding guarantee information, for guaranteeing the continuity of the divided signals, to each of the divided signals to generate transmission signals; and

signal sending means for sending the transmission signals; and

a receiving apparatus including:

signal receiving means for receiving the transmission signals; and

signal restoring means for restoring the original ~~multiplexed~~ concatenation signal by constructing the divided signals on the basis of the guarantee information.

2. (currently amended): The transmission system according to claim 1, wherein the guarantee information adding means adds at least one of the information regarding the type of the ~~multiplexed~~ concatenation signal, the frame number of the ~~multiplexed~~ concatenation signal,

and a division number at the time of dividing the ~~multiplexed~~ concatenation signal to the divided signal as the guarantee information.

3.(original): The transmission system according to claim 1, wherein the guarantee information adding means add the guarantee information in empty bytes of a path overhead for the divided signal.

4.(original): The transmission system according to claim 1, wherein the receiving apparatus further includes delay information notifying means for giving the sending apparatus delay information regarding delays which have occurred at the time of receiving the transmission signals.

5.(currently amended): The transmission system according to claim 4, wherein on the basis of the delay information, the signal sending means sets the bit rate of each ~~of the~~ transmission ~~signals~~ signal variable and makes delay correction.

6.(original): The transmission system according to claim 4, wherein the signal sending means overlaps portions of the transmission signals and sends the transmission signals.

7.(original): The transmission system according to claim 6, wherein when the signal receiving means receives the transmission signals, the signal receiving means makes delay correction by making use of an overlap.

8.(currently amended): A sending apparatus for controlling the sending of a concatenation signal via a path, the apparatus comprising:

signal dividing means for dividing the concatenation ~~a multiplexed~~ signal to generate a plurality of divided signals ~~in the STS or STM transmission interface format~~, which are pseudo concatenation signals having a SONET or SDH multiplexed interface the bit rate of which is lower than that of the original concatenation signal, according to a bit rate available for a transmission line;

guarantee information adding means for adding guarantee information, for guaranteeing the continuity of the divided signals, to each of the divided signals to generate transmission signals; and

signal sending means for sending the transmission signals.

9.(currently amended): A receiving apparatus for controlling the receiving of a concatenation signal via a path, the apparatus comprising:

signal receiving means for receiving transmission signals consisting of divided signals generated by dividing ~~a multiplexed~~ the concatenation signal, said divided signals being pseudo concatenation signals having a SONET or SDH multiplexed interface the bit rate of which is lower than that of the original concatenation signal and generated according to a bit rate available for a transmission line; and

signal restoring means for restoring the ~~multiplexed~~ original concatenation signal by constructing the divided signals on the basis of guarantee information, for guaranteeing the continuity of the divided signals, included in the divided signals.

10-14. (withdrawn):